NINTENDO

TETRIS

On game type A, just as a block is about to land, hold down SELECT until you've heard the thud as it hits the blocks. Just for that you'll get a gargantuan 10,000 points! On game type B following the same procedure produces the word "SUCCESS!", which means you don't have to get all 25 lines. Mark Woods from Clwyd came up with that.

Ever been in that situation where you need one of those stick-

Ever been in that situation where you need one of those stick-like straight blocks but the game refuses to "give you one" (as the saying goes). Well, D Bedford from Australia says you should pause the game and press UP, UP, DOWN, DOWN, LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT, B, and A. A long stick-like block is now yours for the taking. The problem is, you only get one per level.



GHOST 'N' GOBLINS

Jonathon Carr from Solihull sent in these codes to enable you to start on any level you wish. Hold down RIGHT and push B three times. Then push UP and then press B three times. Push LEFT and push B three times. Finally, push DOWN and press B three times. Now just push START and you're away! Hurrah!

SEGA

LORD OF THE SWORD

If cunning double bluffs are your game take a look at this tip from David Clough of Australia. If a snake, vermin, giant spider, centipede, eyeball or straw fly crosses your path, just run away until the creature is off the screen. Retrace your steps and the creature will have gone!

GAIN GROUND

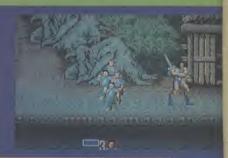
You have my sympathies if you purchased this rather lacking effort, but Stephen



Worral has come up with this tip to help you out if you're having a problem gaining some ground. First of all, before you even turn the power on, put the cart in and hold down both buttons on your joypad. Turn on your Sega and immediately push up on your pad. The game will appear to start as normal, but then the screen will blank and the Special Mode will be activated. This enables you to select any stage and play the game with infinite lives! Cor!

GOLDEN AXE

Still riding high in the charts - and it's been out nearly a year! Lee Hayes has revealed another in a long line of cheats. When you die, press both fire buttons as if you were using magic, and as if by magic, you can carry on where you left off!



GAME BOY

SUPER MARIO LAND

Riaz Pathai from Stevenage sent in three helpful tips for this excellent Gameboy cart. Take it away, Riaz!

1. Before entering a pipe, collect all the coins on the screen. When you come up again all the icons will be replaced!

2. At the end of the Birabuto Kingdom you will meet King Totomesu (Riaz describes him as, and I quote, "a poncey lion that jumps up and down spitting fireballs". Charming eh?). To destroy him, jump over him when he's on the ground and if you have a Superball Mario turn around and fire. If you haven't got Superballs just jump on the lever and blow him up that way.

3. When you reach the end of the Muda kingdom you face up to Dragonzamasu. This is easy. When he is up, destroy the blocks at the bottom right corner of the screen. Once you have done that go up to the lever and touch it. BOOM!!!

MEGADRIVE

ESWAT

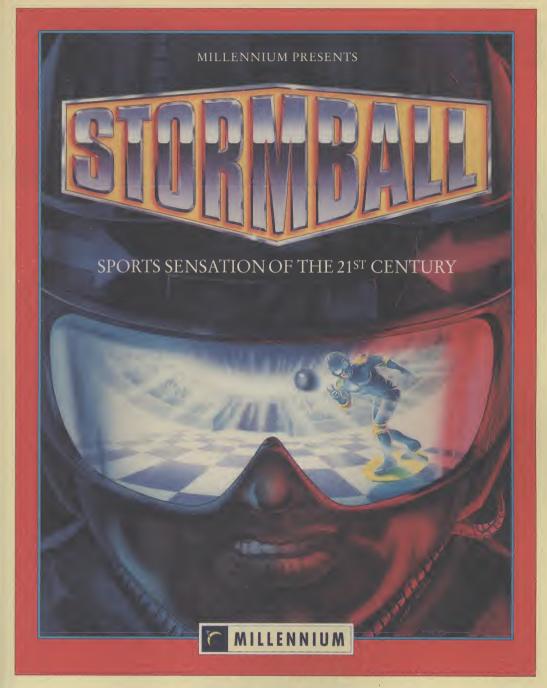
On the mission start screen where you see your adversary for the mission hold down A, B, and C and press down on the joypad. This accesses the round select screen where you can select any mission by moving left or right. The only problem is you have to complete the game first! Nice one, Neil Collman from Hemel Hempstead.



DARIUS 2

We thought this was pretty duff when we first saw it, but a couple of months on, it's beginning to grow on us. Jonathon Breaks from Arthington provided this comprehensive set of cheats (that we saw a few weeks ago in a Japanese mag). Invincibility can be yours can by pressing A, B, A, C, B, C, C, B, C, A, B, A on the title screen. The words NO-HIT should appear.

Infinite continues are yours by pressing B, B, C, A, A, A, B, B, C, C, C. The words FREE-PLAY should appear.
For the SPECIAL MODE (this lets you fight all of the guardians one after the other) press C twelve times!

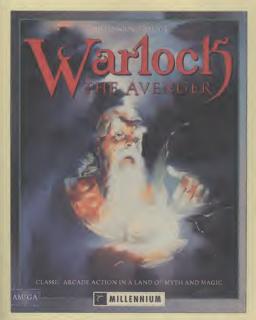


In the blackness of night a pool of light illuminates the sky, the steel stadium doors slide open and two modern-day gladiators step into the spotlight. The crowd erupts with a thunderous roar, two figures take up position at opposite ends of the arena, an official signals the start of play and the first Stormball contest of the evening begins. You are a Stormball professional and must employ lightning-fast reactions to control your movements intercept the ball, catch it, take aim and send it rocketing back at your opponent.

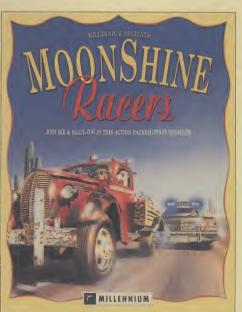
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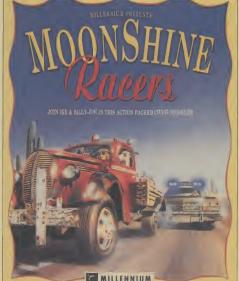
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C64

The Codies run riot through this month's Gallup CHARTALK chart, leaving behind a jumble of (mostly) budget and full-price titles in their wake. The question is, where the heck are Lemmings and Speedball 2? This chart copyright of ELSPA.

\$ (0 min) **Final Whistie** Anco 2 **Fantasy World Dizzy Code Masters** 3 Little Puff **Code Masters** 12 F-19 Stealth Fighter Microprose Speedball 2 5 **Imageworks** Arkanold 2 Hit Squad 13 Fists of Fury 2 Virgin 6 Super Scramble Simulator Kixx 19 Last Ninja 2 Hit Squad 10 2 World Class Leaderboard Kixx Final Whistle takes the top slot. Yogi and the Greed Monster Hi-Tec 12 1 Steve Davis World Snooker CDS 13 8 Fast Food **Code Masters** AMIGA 14 17 Super Grand Prix **Code Masters** 15 9 Treasure Island Dizzy **Code Masters** Storm 16 -**Turrican 2 Rainbow Arts** Panza Kick Boxing **Futura** 17 -**Galdregon's Domain Players** 3 Little Puff Code Masters 182 Moonwalker Kixx Speedball 2 **Imageworks** 19 - Vigilante Kixx Lemmings Fantasy World Dizzy Final Whistie 5 **Psygnosis** Gauntlet II 20 -Kixx 6 6 Code Masters Arrest prill Kick Off 2 data disk hits the back of the net this 7 Anco month-and wall deserved, too! Speedball 2 still hangs in there, but, at long tast, those accursed Turtles vanish from sight! 8 Treasure island Dizzy **Code Masters** Kick Off 2 9 9 Anco R-Type CJ'S Elephant Antics 10 **Hit Squad** 11 ROB'S TIP FOR THE TOP **Code Masters** Double Dragon Being a soppin' good conversion, and excellent VFM at it's new budget price, methinks Gauntie. Il may do rather well next 12 -Mastertronic 13 5 F-19 Stealth Fighter Microprose But keep an eye out for GODS. 14 -A-10 Tank Killer Sierra/Dynamix Yogi and the Greed Monster 15 -HiTec 16 -Turrican 2 **Rainbow Arts** AMSTRAD 17 -Moonwalker Klxx 18 -Super Hang-On **Hit Squad Code Masters Magic Land Dizzy** 19 -**Night Shift US** Gold 2 Double Dragon PC Manager Mastertronic* 20 -Energize 3 **Quattro Firepower Code Masters** So long, Lemmings, hello SWIVI This topper blast 'em up Cavemania **Atlantis** Afterburner HIt Squad certainly deserves its place in the chart, but both Lemmings and Speedball 2'll be hanging in there for a few more month's Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles **Imageworks** to come, I'll wager. 13 Continental Circus Mastertronic **Gary Lineker's Hot Shots** Kixx ROB'S TIP FOR THE TOP **Quattro Adventure** Code Masters Ocoh, bit of a toughle, this, but using my powers of clairvoy-ance I reckon that SWIV will still be number one next month -**Dizzy Collection** 10 **Code Masters** The Real Ghostbusters 11 HIt Squad but watch for Turrican 2. 127 Super Scrambie Simulator Kixx 13 F-1 Tornado Zeppelin 146 **Operation Wolf** Hit Squad 15 - (Rambo 3 Hit Squad 16 -Vigilante Kixx 17 -Technocop Kixx 189 **Defenders of the Earth** HI-Tec 19 -Quick Draw McGraw HI-Tec THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH 20 -**Total Recail** Ocean This is getting monotonous, another month of Ametric charte-being dominated by budget stuff! Only Turtles and Big Arnie make up the full-price quotient of the budget is worth... OUT 026 IN 01% ROB'S TIP FOR THE TOP
Guaranteed a budget title will rule the roost next month, so I'm ▲ The Lemmings drop to number Ive! going to plump for...Magic Land Dizzy (and that's no yolk).

C64 The hideous D Magic Land Dizzy Code Masters Afterburner hits 2 **Double Dragon** Mastertronic number seven. 3 7 **Paperboy** Encore CJ's Elephant Antics Teenage Mutant Hero Turties 4 **Code Masters** 3 5 **imageworks** 6 Quattro Adventure **Code Masters** Afterburner Hit Squad 8 Quattro Firepower **Code Masters** Out Run **Kixx** erat 10 4 The Real Ghostbusters **Hit Squad Gary Lineker's Hot Shots** Kixx 12 11 Operation Wolf Hit Squad **ENGINE** 135 Cavemania **Atlantis** 14 10 Dizzy Collection 15 - Kwik Snax **Code Masters Code Masters Parasol Stars** Taito Big Box Beau Jolly **Dead Moon** 2 2 NEC 17 12 Kenny Daiglish Soccer 3 Zeppelin **Jackie Chan** Hudson Rambo 3 Hit Squad **Out Run** NEC 192 **Super Scramble Simulator Violent Soldier** Kixx 5 IGS **Code Masters** Bigfoot TV Sports Football Victor Aldvnes Hudson Jeez, it's Budgetsville, Arizonal Two full price games in the Finai Match Tennis Human whole C64 chart? You are a bunch of cheapskates, and no Motoroader 2 Masiya mistake! And where's the likes of Creatures or Summer Camp? Download II (CD-ROM) NEC ib and Bob hold their grip on the top slot, with Dead Moon laying put and Jackie Chan climbing one - and there's even nother CD-ROM game in there (wow!). Thanks to console concepts of Stoke for the chart. **ROB'S TIP FOR THE TOP** Well, having seen Lotus Esprit Challenge (check out the Bytesize review this ish), I reckon that's a prejty good befor Last Ninja III... NINTENDO **◀** Mickey Mouse remains in the chart! MegaMan 2 Capcom 2 **Duck Tales** Capcom 3 **World Wrestling** Nintendo Tetris Nintendo 5 Super Off Road **Tradewest Double Dragon II Tradewest** Snake, Rattle and Roll Nintendo Super Mario ii Nintendo -_ Faxanadu _ Nintendo Pinbot 10 -Nintendo Well, don't say I didn't tell you sol MegaMan smashes into the number one slot, with Mario taking a nosedive down to number eight. However, expect to see Snake, Rattle and Roll moving MEGADRIVE upwards next month! Midnight Resistance Sega 2 Gynoug Masiya 3 **Monster Hunter** Sega Wrestiebaii 4 Kaneko 5 **PGA Tour Golf Electronic Arts** MegaMan 2 6 **James Pond Electronic Arts Super Airwoif** Sega - Valis iii 8 Sega 9 **Mickey Mouse** Sega 102 Magical Flying Hat Adventure Sega Midnight Resistance blasts from nowhere to the top of the chart, with two new EA titles in at 5 and 6 respectively! However, both Mickey and Magical Hat are on the way down...

Thanks, as always, to Console Concepts of Stoke for the chart.



▲ Afterburner's hanging on at number 12!

> Silkworm's doing well on re-release.



SPECTRUM

- **Magic Land Dizzy**
- 2 **Double Dragon**
- 3 **Kwik Snax**
- 4 9 **Paperboy**
- 5 **Continental Circus**
- 12 Kenny Daiglish Football
- Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles imageworks
- Cavemania
- **Quattro Adventure**
- 108 **Dizzy Collection**
- **Quattro Firepower** 11
- 12 10 Afterburner
- 13 13 Operation Wolf
- Rastan 14 -
- 15 -**Gary Lineker's Hot Shots**
- Sllkworm 16 -
- 17 11 Target Renegade 18 1 The Real Ghostbusters
- 19 17 Out Run
- 20 R-Type

Code Masters Mastertronic

Code Masters Encore

Mastertronic

Zeppeiin

Atlantis

Code Masters

Code Masters

Code Masters

HIt Squad Hit Squad

Hit Squad

Klxx

Mastertronic

HIt Squad

HIt Squad

Kixx

Hit Squad

Yet another completely uninspiring chart which makes The Famous Five look like interesting reading. One full price title in a sea of cheapos - don't you lot buy any new stuff?

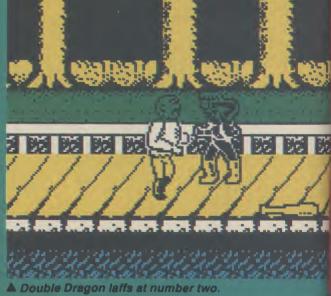
ROB'S TIP FOR THE TOP
No matter what I predict, it's bound to be a budget game at the top - which one though, I couldn't say, but I'm putting my money on Driller.



Paperboy's at number four!

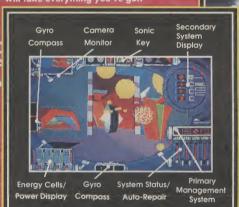


▲ The Hit Squad strike back with Rastan.



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AMIGA

Biffa Bacon, Buster Gonad and loads of other familiar faces make their way into this month's Bytesize. Our own Rude Kid, Robert Swan takes a look, but is careful not to get too close to Bertie Biunt's parrot...

VIZ

VIRGIN GAMES

£24.99

It states quite clearly on the box that you'll never play "a bigger load of crap". Well, Viz isn't that bad, but it's not far off it. The graphics and sound are good, but the different events which make up the game are very basic, and the only possible attraction is the snigger-value of the (sometimes filthy) comments from Roger Mellie, et al. If you're old enough to buy the game, you'd get more laughs by spending the £25 on a subscription to the comic and a couple of pairs of boxer shorts instead.

OVERALL

59%

INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY

IMPULZE

£24.99

Keep on pucking with this not-too-bad-actually Ice Hockey game, featuring single and dual player modes, pretty decent graphics, and lots of sampled speech. The only real problem is the finicky control method which does take a heck of a lot of getting used to. Fans of the sport, check it out why don't you?

OVERALL

77%

MONSTER PACK 1

PSYGNOSIS

£20.99

This pack-o'-three contains Nitro (good), Infestation (not quite so good), and the infamous Shadow of the Beast (which is pretty but boring). The games aren't exactly outstanding, but for less than £25 this compilation is well worth a look if you haven't got the titles already.

OVERALL

79%

SKULL AND CROSSBONES

DOMARK/TENGEN

£24 90

The Amiga conversion of Atari's buccaneering coin-op is no better than the ST one. But then the arcade game was no classic so this further demonstrates that you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Pirate-lovers may see the attraction, but others would probably prefer to feed it to the sharks.

OVERALL

57%

THE FAMOUS FIVE

ENIGMA VARIATIONS

£24.99

Enid Blyton's foursome of annoying brats and their dog aren't really the most inspiring characters to turn into a computer game. However, if you're very generous and have a little brother or sister or something who is actually into "The Five", this type-in graphic adventure might make a good birthday present.

OVERALL

70%









...NEWS FLASH...

...By the time you read this Domark's strategy epic, 'Nam should be out and about. In it your task as either a combat soldier or President of the United States is to change history by winning both the war and the favour of the American people...

...Wing Commander, the spectacular space combat sim from Origin, is in the process of being converted to the Amiga for release some time later this year. The PC version was only worth playing on machines twice as fast and with twice as much memory as the Amiga, so we can only ponder on the potential of the conversion. What will they have to cut out? Or are the Origin programmers such a talented bunch that they can cram the whole game in? As soon as we know, you will too ...

BYTESIZE

ATARI ST

Toilet humour, coin-op clones and conversions, futuristic action, the Vietnam War - Robert Swan takes a look at the

latest Bytesized bundle to hit the ST, and wonders where it'll all end - stuck in the U-bend, perhaps?

VIZ

VIRGIN GAMES

£19.99

Almost identical to the Amiga version, ST Viz is okay in the audio-visual departments, but a bit yawnsome as far as gameplay is concerned. Diehard Viz fans might love it, but as with the other versions, this isn't half as entertaining as a copy of the mag of the same name.

OVERALL 59%

DISC

£19.99

Hands up, all that remember the old Discs of Tron coin-op? Well, Disc is practically identical to it in most respects - simply try to destroy your enemy by hitting him with a disc! Anyone yearning for nostalgia will enjoy this but, alas, not for long.

OVERALL

74%



MASTERBLAZER

RAINBOW ARTS

The Amiga version got a very healthy 89% back in issue 110, and I'm happy to say that the ST version is just as colourful (well, almost), playable and addictive. Gamers with a taste for hard 'n' fast action would be well-advised to add this to their collection.

OVERALL

89%

'NAM - 1965-1975 DOMARK

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Out of all the Vietnam games ever made, this has to be the most complex of all. With detailed maps and a massive number of tactical options, and the option to become two of America's presidents (not at the same time, mind), this is a must for all lovers of military strategy - even if it is a trifle expensive.

OVERALL

90%



CHOOSE YOUR PLAYE

SKULL AND CROSSBONES

DOMARK/TENGEN

£19.99

The totally abysmal STUN Runner conversions blotted Domark's Tengen copybook, and this one doesn't clear up the mess - poorly animated sprites, awful sound, and little or no gameplay whatsoever. Leave it alone, unless you're mad.

OVERALL

57%



£19.99

. 000/



...NEWS FLASH...

Coming soon to an ST near you, courtesy of Entertainment International - Volfied, a conversion of a little-known Taito coin-op, which involves flying around a screen full of aliens, covering up parts of the screen as you go, a la Qix. The PC Engine and Megadrive versions were a hoot, so the ST game should be a real doozy...

Core Design are busy beavering away at the moment on their first flight sim, AH-73M Thunderhawk, based upon a fictitious combat chopper. Also on the boards is Warzone, a two-player blast in the Commando mould...

Psygnosis are about to unleash the ST version of their graphically stunning Awesome. Apart from a small loss of speed, and the obligatory colour and sound differences, ST Awesome should be just as smart as the Amiga version..

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BYTES

Initially reviewed on the Amiga (back in issue 108), one of the best racers in recent years finally surfaces on the C64 in this month's Bytesize. Robert Swan takes Lotus Esprit Chailenge - amongst others - out for a test drive...

LOTUS ESPRIT TURBO CHALLENGE

GREMLIN

£10.99

Favourably reviewed on both Amiga and ST, the C64 version retains practically all of the 16 bit game's presentation and addictive qualities, and considering the C64's capabilities, most of the visual panache of its older brothers. An excellent racer, and one well worth adding to any gamester's collection.

OVERALL

Flynn turning in his grave. Avoid! **OVERALL** 32%

SKULL AND

CROSSBONES

Bleeurgh! I thought the 16 bit

and jerk their way through

numerous dull backdrops, and

you reaching for the knob in sec-

onds. A complete travesty, and

a game that would have Errol

the sound is enough to have

89%



VIRGIN GAMES

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The Viz gang also turn up on the C64, and in comparison to the 16 bit versions reviewed elsewhere, this tepid "race" is about as entertaining as having your face rearranged by Biffa Bacon, and for the price, you'd do better off subscribing to the mag! (as long as you're over 18 of course - Law-abiding Ed)

OVERALL



...NEWS FLASH...

... Not much in the way of C64 or Spectrum news this month... except to say that Novagen's classic 3D arcade adventure is now out on both machines at a budget price of £2.99! Bargain of the month, definitely, and if you missed it first time around, make sure you get hold of it now!!



SPECTRUM

it's time to take a visit to Compilation City this month, with two packages from Domark - but there's also a conversion of one of Gremlin's recent racing hits, too! Robert Swan moseys on down to Speccyland to have a iook...

THE WINNING TEAM

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A compilation of five of the first releases on the Tengen label the okay Vindicators and APB, the excellent Escape from the Planet of the Robot Monsters and Cyberball, and the totally brilliant Klax. For the asking price, this set is tops in the VFM tables, and if you haven't got any of these as yet, you couldn't do better to rush down to your local softshop right now and part with the shekels!

OVERALL

90%

TV SHOWTIME **DOMARK/TV GAMES**

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Another compilation, this features Bob's Full House, Blockbusters, Every Second Counts, The Krypton Factor and Bullseye. None of these were received with any great deal of enthusiasm when first released, but this is okay value for trivia freaks who enjoy answering lots of silly questions. Quiz show buffs, check it out.

OVERALL

83%

CREDITS

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PRESS RAY POHER - TOYOTA **CELICA GT** RALLY **GREMLIN**

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Compared to the Amiga version (which received a healthy 87% back in issue 110), the Spectrum version is a tad disappointing. The graphics are a bit jerky, which makes life difficult as you can't really see what's in front in time to avoid hitting it. Take a look, but don't expect too much.

OVERALL **76%**

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REVIEW

SEGA BY US GOLD

£29.99

If you like a bit of golfing action but don't fancy all the exertion of walking around a massive 18-hole course, then this Sega version of the classic World Class Leaderboard could well be the one for you.

The aim of the game is remarkably simple. Just drive the little white ball down the fairway, and use your skill and judgement to putt the ball into the hole at the centre of the green. Up to four players can take part, and the winner is the person who takes the least shots to put the ball in the "cup". Each hole has a par limit and this is the recommended number of shots needed. Beat this limit and you're obviously pretty hot (or lucky).

All of the golfing rules and action have been incorporated into this Sega cart, and there are four massive courses to test your skills against. Expect glory everlasting should you succeed. On the other hand, your Sega has been programmed with loads of intimidating sampled speech should you make a complete pig's ear of it.



FORE-PLAY

If you're a bit wet behind the ears when it comes to teeing off, and putting the little white ball into the hole, then your best bet is to use the practice options. If whacking the ball a great distance is a bit of a problem for you, the driving range should be your first port-of-call. Should you be a bit of a duffer with the old putter, the putting green is the place to be. Attacking the hole from various angles enables golfers to build up an understanding of how a sloping green affects your shot.





Golfamania was quite a nice golf game for the Master System, but it's nothing compared to World Class Leaderboard! The game oozes quality from the word go with nice presentation screens, and a fair few options. The game proper is better still with excellent ani-

mation, very detailed backdrops and some of the best sound on the Sega. The spot effects have been sampled, and Tiertex (the programmers) have even added in some sampled speech (prompted only by your golfing ineptitude!). A fierce competitive spirit is induced when you invite a few more players to share a round and the four courses offer more than enough in the way of lastability. If you're on the lookout for the best Sega golf game, look no further. World Class Leaderboard is it.

RICHARD LEADBETTER

SKILLFUL COURSES

Four 18-hole courses are included in this cart. Three of them are based on courses located around the globe. The fourth is The Gauntlet - a course specially designed by the Access programmers, and criminy, it's tough.

ST ANDREWS: Take a trip to Scotland and have a few rounds on one of the world's most famous courses. This is probably the easiest course in the game, with little in the way of trees or lakes to get in the way.

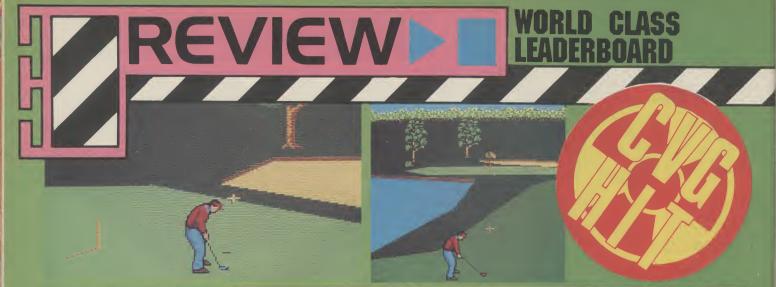
DORAL: Doral is a potentially terrifying course, with loads of trees and large bunkers hampering your progress. It's a good thing the par limits are pretty easy to beat.

CYPRESS CREEK: The pleasant greenery turns out to be a golfer's worst nightmare at Cypress Creek. The low bushes don't really cause much of a problem, but there's loads of high trees that cause plenty of problems. A real expert's

THE GAUNTLET: The Gauntlet is only recommended to golfing stars who can handle the preceding courses with ease. Probably the most demanding set of 18 holes ever created for a computer golf game.







UPDATE

World Class Leaderboard has been out on the 8-bit budget labels for quite a while now and is highly recommended. The same goes for 16-bit Leaderboard, although golfing Amiga fans should go for PGA Tour Golf for the best digital rounds of golf.









Leaderboard is an outstanding golf game, easily surpassing the standards set by Great Golf and Golfamania. The crisp graphics and sampled sound are both excellent, and the control method is superb - easy to get to grips with, but subtle enough to allow experts to

swerve the ball left or right. The courses are very challenging - especially the Gauntlet - and it certainly takes a lot of practice before you get around on par. The great thing about Leaderboard is that unlike most games which lose their appeal once they're finished, you go back to this one time and time again to see whether you can beat your course record! So if you're after a high quality sports game with masses of lasting appeal, make sure you take a good look at this!

JULIANRIGNALL





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REVIEW

AMIGA BY GREMLIN

£24.99

It is two hundred years since Hiro, last of the Bladeknights, rebuilt the shattered Fireblade and defeated the evil Havok and his Undercity minions, thereby restoring peace to the cyberworld of Thraxx. Life went on as before with the people safe in the knowledge that Havok and his forces of darkness were dead and gone forever.

Or so they thought.

Now, two centuries later, the evil one has resurfaced, and once again shattered the powerful Fireblade, scattering it over the planet's surface. Hiro's great-great-grandson, a Bladeknight in training, has taken it onto himself to follow in his ancestor's footsteps, defeat Havok and free Thraxx from his insidious grasp once and for all!



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The depth and sheer addictiveness of the original made it an instant classic, and Switchblade 2 automatically falls into the same category. The first thing that grabs you by the throat is the stunning consolesque graphics - beautifully designed sprites blast around

the screen at a hectic pace, in front of some of the most superlative backdrops yet seen in a game of this type. The sound's nothing to sneeze at either, with lots of loud sampled explosions and blasts - it's enough to make you turn down the TV to save your battered eardrums! And Switchblade 2 is definitely no one weekend wonder. The sheer size of the game ensures that even the most battle-hardened gamester will have more than enough to deal with, and the whole thing's so addictive, you won't want to play anything else. If you're a fan of the original, or enjoy an excellent mixture of exploration and blasting, then there is no alternative - Switchblade 2 is a must. Buy it now, or forever hold your head in shame!

ROBERT SWAN

INSTRUMENTS OF DESTRUCTION

Our hero has quite an arsenal at his disposal. To begin with, he can only slash at enemies with his blade, but along the way, the following weapons can be collected or purchased from a shop:



FLAME THROWER: Emits a powerful burst of napalm death, frying anything in its path.



SPIN BLADES: One of the faster weapons, this lets you hurl deadly throwing stars at anything stupid enough to get in the way.



PLASMA GUN: Fires single bursts of destructive energy.



BEAM LASER: Fires a searing laser bolt which annihilates everything in its path. Slow fire rate, though.



HOMING MISSILES: Lock in on any enemies in the vicinity and destroys them all. Definitely the most useful weapon but not easy to come by.



REVIEW

Switchblade 2 will be hacking onto the ST real soon, for the same sum of £24.99. Apart from minimal colour. speed and sound differences, it should be as stunning as the Amiga version. Check out a Bytesized review in the near future.



SHOPPING AROUND

As well as locating powerups along the way, you can also buy them from the shop, which resembles a glowing portal. Get your wad out for ... INFO: Tells you useful bits you need to know to complete the game.

SMALL HEART: Restores

half of lost energy.

LARGE HEART: Restores full energy

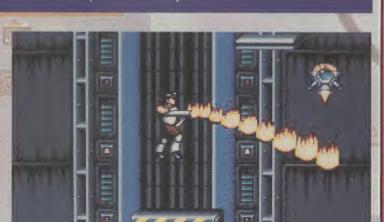
MANNEQUIN: Extra life.

POWER-UP: Increases effectiveness of all weapons.



FULL AMMO: Bestows a full ammo clip - handy when you're running low.

SHIELD: Temporary invinci-





A lot of people said that the original Switchblade was rather too similar to Rick Dangerous for its own good. I actually thought it was a whole lot better. The platform puzzles relied more on skill than luck and the emphasis was on the arcade action. The same can be

said of this superlative sequel. The blasting action is pretty enjoyable and there's some really devious puzzles thrown in for good measure. My only whinge is that there isn't really enough enemy sprites on-screen at once and the power of the weapons is toned down accordingly. In its favour, Switchblade 2 has some superb graphics and super-smooth scrolling and all of the levels are huge, with some secret rooms as well! I would've liked to see a bit more in the way of reaction-testing but as it stands, Switchblade 2 is an essential purchase for arcade adventure fanatics, with bags of lasting appeal.







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REVIEW

PC ENGINE

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BY MASIYA

Welcome to the future of road racing, with the Motoroader 2000 World Tournament. The aim of the game is simple - win by whatever means possible!

Of course, this isn't all as easy as it sounds - you have the choice of three vehicles to race with; a ground car (which is nippy, but not too rugged), a tank (heavily armoured, but slow and difficult to manoeuvre), or a hovercar (which floats above the other vehicles, but is even more difficult to control).

These difficulties can be easily overcome by buying better parts for your vehicle - if you can afford it! To earn prize money, you need to complete each treacherous course in one piece (how much you win depends on your final position).

Of course, the other drivers have the same ambition, and they'll bump or shoot you off the track given half the chance, leaving your vehicle a smoking ruin in the gutter. Every time your car is left behind it has to be flown back into the thick of the action, using up some of your precious supply of fuel. If this runs out, you're out of the race.

Up to five players can take part (with a Multi-Tap and enough controllers), so get out there and burn rubber (or something like that)!

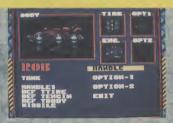
Enter the road warriors!



Don't bother taking your racer round to Kwik-Fit each vehicle can be enhanced in the pits, but only if you've got the ready cash to pay for it! There are three grades of equipment, which, in practical terms, means that it isn't wise to race with a weak grade one engine under the bonnet of a large grade three bonnet. Similarly, it would be difficult to control a car with a grade three engine and grade one tyres. TYRES: Increases your vehicle's road-holding capabilities. On a hovercraft, the equivalent pieces of equip-









There are quite a few PC Engine race games of this format, but Motoroader 2 is definitely one of the few that is worth getting. Handling the cars is a little tricky to get to grips with (the hovercar is particularly tough to handle) but perseverance is the name of the game, and

with a little practice, you'll be hacking around the treacherous circuits like a seasoned pro. The add-on parts make things that bit more entertaining, not to mention frustrating - there's nothing more annoying than having another player come up behind and blast you in the rear! Overall, a highly-charged, not to mention highly competetive game that's enjoyable and fun to play - and that's what counts.

ROBERT SWAN



ment are different types of

ENGINES: More expensive engines are more powerful and hence make your vehicle faster. No surprises there

BODY: Each body makes the vehicle selected that bit more sturdy, so it'll take more knocks before becoming scrap iron! Also, more expensive bodies are more streamlined, providing an edge in the speed stakes. You can sell unwanted parts as well, but just remember, because they're now second hand, you won't get as much money for them!

The mage the up to the of







MOTOROADER II ◀ The cars jostle around the track. and the same of th NITRO: Gives a single burst of acceleration, to help take you to the front of the pack. WING: Similar to the Hopper. this allows short bursts of flight to take you over the rest of the field. **OIL**: Straight out of James Bond, this spills oil puddles onto the track, sending anyone behind you out of HANDLE control! **DRILL**: Spinning spikes appear from your hub caps to scrape the fancy paintwork on those other cars. FREEZE: Brr! This icy blast freezes the steering controls of other racers. BOMBER: Releases land-mines on to the track - when another racer hits one, The Board of the B BOOM! **CANNON: This front** Check out the stats here. mounted machine gun allows you to spray the opposition ▲ Missiles away! with molten lead! LASER: Another handy weapon with which you can blast the others - and it does a lot I really went a bundle on the of damage! original Motoroader - it was MISSILE: Depending upon definitely one of the best games to buy if you had a joypad tap. At first I wasn't where the other racers are. missiles will fly from the front, side or rear. too, excited by this sequel because apart from the graphical changes, there were no vast improvements. However, a few games were all it took to change my opinion, and I find the action as enjoyable as ever. The choice of different vehicles adds less to the game than you might expect because the hovercar and the tank don't have many advantages over the car. It's the extra weapons that spice the game up a lot - that, and the multi-player option which bumps up the fun factor about twentyfold. Zapping two human co-racers with a laser or zipping over them with wings spread is just great, so, like I said, if you've got a multi-tap and a bunch of mates to play against, this is a game you must buy. PAUL **GLANCEY**

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REVIEW SUPER FAMICOM £29.99 BY BANDAI

Itra-Man is a strange metallic creature from the planet M-27, whose sole purpose in life involves protecting innocent life-forms from towering hostile creatures intent on world domination. He has one infallible method for dealing with these beasts. Relying on his powerful fists, feet and magic, he simply beats the seven shades out of his assailants until they finally bite the dust.

shades out of his assailants until they finally bite the dust.

There are ten adversaries for Ultra-Man to annihilate - and none of them are less than fifty feet tall! All of these monstrous demons have their own methods of attack, including fire-breathing, lasers and good old fisticuffs. However, later demons are a bit more cunning in their approach, using magic to do over our metallic hero.

ning in their approach, using magic to do over our metallic hero.

When our hero eventually conquers each foe they can only be finally despatched with the aid of the most potent magic that Ultra-Man has available...

ユーノピーファコ・

ULTRA-TACKY

cheap B-movies fom Japan and secured himself a cult following in Far Eastern shores. One of his films was shown in a recent Channel Four cheapo movie season. But did you know that Ultra-Man is in fact a member of the Ultra-7, a band of dogooders intent on ridding the cosmos of everything evil? Each member of this Ultra family has its own Ultra-powers, and this Super Famicom game replicates all of Ultra-Man's powers. Good eh?



Ultra-Man is not going to win any prizes for using the Super Famicom's advanced hardware. The sprites are large and well-animated, but even the PC Engine has matched this (remember Drunken Master?). The parallax backdrops are quite nice, but not spectacular.

The sound is great, with bizarre Japanese-style melodies that suit the B-movie atmosphere perfectly and there's some excellent effects too. All of the monsters make their own individual noises, and Ultra-Man's chest panel starts beeping alarmingly when time starts running out (and his chest light flashes too!). The beat 'em up gameplay is pretty simplistic, but it's very enjoyable and addictive. Throwing all manner of prehistoric beasts around the screen has never been so much fun! Although the action becomes a stale after quite a while, Ultra-Man is well worth looking up. However, if you're after the ultimate beat 'em up, Final Fight still rules without a shadow a doubt.

RICHARD



REVIEV

ULTRA-VIOLENCE

As well as having fists and feet of steel, Ultra-Man has five different types of magic at his disposal. Simply wait until the required power level is reached, and then press the backright button to select a power. The green button on your Famicom joypad activates it.

SUPER LASER One point from Ultra-Man's magic fingers results in these laser bolts being fired. Not that powerful though.

LASER HOOPS Far more powerful than the Super Laser, but this weapon uses a lot more energy.

LASER SAW-BLADES Yikes! A powerful saw-blade is thrown at the foe, and boy, does this cause damage! SUPER BOLTS These powerful bolts can reduce the enemy energy bar in seconds, and are also used to finish off the enemy and move on to the next level.

SHIELD Use this to halt your enemies' blows and reflect back their lasers or fire. An essential aid in later levels.

LTRA-HEAVIES

Ultra-Man has ten heavies (Telesdon weighs 120,000 tons!) to deal with in the game, all of which he's done battle with in his movies, and they are...

STAGE 02 地底怪獣 レスドン 登場 HEXGHT: **БО** М WEIGHT: 120000T PHEN SHIEL BUTTON



TRAMAN 2

BEMULAR This Godzillagame. Easy! TELESDON Another dino-

saur descendant, this guys combines fire-breating with a

JAMYRA Lethal claws and a vicious kick combine to make this guy Ultra-Man's

first real problem.

BULLTON This strange spikey spheroid fires out strength-sapping energy bolts and floor-hugging fireballs at our silver-eyed hero. Tough with a capital T. LED KING Mistakenly dubbed Red King in the from outer space is even more powerful than the mighty Bullton. He's one of scariest things yet seen in a

ALIEN BALTAN As well as shooting fireballs from his claws, this guy projects hologramatic images of himself

deciding which Baltan to at-

nosaur decendant and like LED King, Gomorah swings his tail at Ultraman, but he to squeeze the life out of his circuits! Eep!

ALIEN MELIYAH This foureyed monster has the same can even use the same magical weapons! Meliyah cannot be killed, but once beaten he escapes, warning Ultraman GERONIMON A brightly-coloured lizard beast, Geronimon can send Ultraman ree-Waves, and shoots poisonous spines from his back! Z-TON Not even Ultraman's most powerful magic can destroy this mightiest of mon-





After the initial batch of superb Super Famicom releases, we seem to have come to the more mediocre stuff. Ultraman is one of the most entertaining titles in the recent bunch, but it's not one of those games that persuades you to buy the machine. The monster sprites

are nicely animated, and are very accurate to the original characters - the dinosaurs even look like they're men in rubber suits! The sound effects are good too, but the tunes are really corny and naff. Ultraman's only real weakness is that the gameplay is rather limited and not at all fancy. Once you've fought your'way past Z-Ton, there's no real compulsion to play it again, so unless you're a major beat 'em up fan who already owns Final Fight (or indeed an Ultraman fan, though that seems unlikely), you'd be better off saving your money for Super R-Type.

GLANCE

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REVIEW

JETFIGHTER 2



A ZOOM WITH A VIEW

Like it's predecessor, and many other recent flight sims, Jet Fighter 2 doesn't limit the player to a straight-ahead view from the pilot's seat. From the cockpit, you can pan the view and look directly past the tail of the aircraft, and if you hit the '-' key on the keypad, the view switches to an absolutely-any-angle external view, with zoom control. There are also options for a view from the control tower at the airstrip where you took off, and if you have a missile in the air, you can watch it streak toward its target!



CARRIER LANDINGS

Jet Fighter 2 is one of only a few computer flight simulators which can station the pilot on an aircraft carrier. Taking off isn't much of a problem, but landing on such a small runway is something else! Use the Instrument Landing System to line the plane up on the glide slope, then gradually take the power down. Deploy the landing gear and the arrestor plane onto the deck. If all is well the arrestor hook should stop the plane immediately. but any mistake and you'll have to open the throttle to full, take off and try again!



EJECTION PROBLEMS

Another feature which is rarely found in other simulators is the ability to eject from the plane if a crash is imminent. As soon as the a crash seems imminent, hit CTRL and E, and the cockpit suddenly drops away as the plane plummets to the earth. You can then switch to an external view and watch yourself floating gracefully down on your parachute.



I like having a nice big PC on my desk, because I can crack the whip at my lackeys and when nobody's watching I can have a go at a fab flight sim like this. Amiga Interceptor was a game I liked because it was spectacular without being complex to play, and this updated ver-

sion is similar in that respect. It's dead easy to get into, and easy to get a lot out of. Unlike Interceptor, there are more than five missions to play - a lot more! In fact there are about 130 different sorties to fly, some of which are quite unusual, such as the Cruise missile interception, and airstrikes with a wing-man flying alongside. The graphics are nice, and even without a sound card the effects and music aren't bad, but the only problem is, as usual, you do need at least a 12 MHz AT to play. The only other negative thing I could say is JF2 isn't quite as technically polished as Red Baron, but then that's asking a lot. But there's no faulting it's playability, and as ever that's what counts. Nice going, Velocity.

PAUL GLANCEY









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BY NINTENDO

I the prospect of zooming around Daytona in a battle-damaged NASCAR automobile sounds remotely appealing, then this NES conversion of the notorious Tom Cruise movie could be the one for you.

You adopt the role of Cole Trickle (?), who drives around the major NASCAR circuits in the USA with the express purpose of finishing the race in front of all the other participants, thus winning. This is achieved by driving around the sprite 3D track, overtaking as many other cars as possible before the end of the race (Nothing like spelling it out, is there? - ED).

But remember, this race is very gruelling and arduous so you can't to keep your car going on the same set of tyres. Therefore, an occasional visit to the pits is in order, where your car can also receive a number of other benefits including extra fuel!

ceive a number of other benefits including extra fuel!

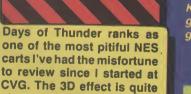
Along with the racing action, there's also a few animated screens based on scenes from the movie - just don't expect a sampled NES rendition of "Show Me Heaven"...

CRUISIN' FOR A MOVIE

Released in the latter part of 1990, Days of Thunder was given a unanimous thumbs down by the vast majority of critics the world over. Described by many as "Top

Gun with cars", it cast Tom Cruise as Cole Trickle - the Top Gun of the NASCAR circuit, aided and abetted by his sexy physician (Nicole Kidman). The wafer-thin plot generally involved Cruise winning a few races, losing a few races and getting to grips with Miss Kidman before winning the big race at the end - hurrah! Who said that thought-provoking plots and sensitive screenplay were a thing of the past?





pleasing, but the sprites are small and ill-defined, ruining the effect altogether. Since NONE of the tracks have any right-hand turns at all,

they're all tedious beyond belief! The only difference is the colour of the sky and the stripes on the track. Boring! The speed of the game makes it about as exciting as an eight-day opera and the action itself is monotonous in the extreme. The sound consists of very dull and uninteresting tunettes and some sampled speech. In fact, I'd go as far to say that the best thing about the game is the intro sequence. There's some sampled thunder and streaks of lightning before the game opens proper. Other than that, Days of Thunder is a complete travesty that must NOT be purchased under any circumstances whatsoever.

RICHARD LEADBETTER

A WORD FROM YOUR SPONSORS

Keeping your sponsors sweet is the only way to get to drive your high-powered speed machine in the first place! Since they've invested good money in your abilities, they're expecting the best from you, so don't expect them to be very happy if you come last in all of your races! If luck isn't on your side and you lose a good few races, your sponsors may arrange a time trial. Fail this and you lose your backing. Lose your backing and your racing career is as good as over.

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If your car looks a bit the worse for wear, entering the pits at the beginning of each lap is probably the best way to get your car working again. Here, new tyres can be bolted on to your speedmobile and extra fuel tops up your tank. If your engine is completely exhausted, a new one can be added. But remember, time is ticking away and a fast pit-stop is essential to maintaining a good overall time.







▼ Please pass - driver running in...



■ And he takes the chequered flag - almost..

UPDATE

Days of Thunder has been out and about for quite a while now on the ST, PC and Amiga. These polygon 3D games are a tad better than this effort, but none of them are really worth the £24.99 price tag. There's also a Gameboy cart of Days of Thunder (programmed by Argonaut software) which should be available before the year is out.

QUALIFICATION CHAOS

Before each race can begin proper, your mettle is tested in a qualifying race. Here the objective is simply to reach the lowest possible average lap time. This then dictates your starting position on the grid.

THE TRACKS

A lot of the tracks used in actual NASCAR racing are represented in this NES conversion of Days of Thunder. All of the tracks have different lengths and surfaces and affect the car in different ways. Some tracks, for example, are more wearing on the car's tyres. What is quite interesting though is that there is not ONE track in the whole game which has a right-hand turn. Spooky, eh?

I agree with Rich entirely not only was the film a complete disaster, but the NES game is about as much fun as sticking your head in a bucket of dung. The intro's okay, but the rest of the game is a total drag - duff sprites juddering around naff tracks to the sound of

thousands of angry bees! Days of Thunder could have been quite entertaining, given the amount of scope available, but quite frankly, this follows in the movie's footsteps-straight down the loo. Quite frankly, how this could ever merit Nintendo's seal of approval is utterly beyond me, as this has to rank as the worst NES games I've ever played. Unless you're either two tins short of a six-pack, mad about Tom Cruise (and who is?), or just plain stupid, leave this miserable effort alone.

ROBERT SWAN

TOLI ODECO

NINTENDO

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OVERALL 30

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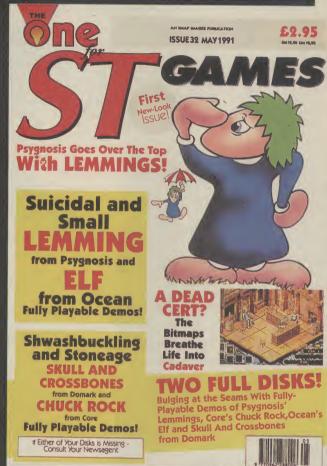




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You'd think princesses would have better things to do than be kidnapped by evil emperors and whisked away to far-off lands. But that's exactly what's happened (surprise, surprise), and it's down to little Tonma, the princess's beloved, to sort it all out.

Tonma has to get through seven wild and wacky levels of scrolling platform action, blasting the emperor's mutant minions (using his magical gloves) and collecting keys, power-ups and shields along the way. Also, bags of loot and treasure chests lie scattered about, which boost Tonma's bank account.

At the end of each level lurks an evil demon, summoned by the emperor to stop our diminutive do-gooder in his tracks. Blast that to shreds, and it's on to the next level.

At the end of the seventh level lies the chief meanie, the emperor himself. Succeed in destroying him, and the two love-birds are reunited. Fail, however, and the princess will be subjected to watching "The James Whale Radio Show" for the rest of her days!



THE EMPEROR'S PERSONAL GUARD

At the end of each level, massive demons summoned from the pits of Hades emerge, and try to do Tonma some serious bodily harm. Here's a list of who will do the dirty deed:

LEVEL 1: A giant skeleton, with an enormous blade faces up to our hero. Watch out, though, as this demonic scum spits out a ball of energy which chases Tonma around the screen!

LEVEL 2: A giant scaled serpent will fly around the screen, and must be blasted loads of times before he turns Tonma into a charcoal briquette!

LEVEL 3: A strange plantlike creature spurts out minicreatures at you, intent on your doom.

statue, firing many deadly

bullets at our hero.











Having never played Legend of Hero Tonma in the arcades, I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I can safely say now that this has to rank as one of the most entertaining platform games I've played in many a moon. The graphics are great, with

bright, cutesy sprites bouncing around all over the screen, and some really tasty backdrops, and the sound is full of bouncy, jolly tracks and explosions that are a treat to the ears. Playability-wise, Tonma is really addictive, and easy enough to get into, but is challenging enough to keep players going for a long time. The only gripe I have with this is that there are infinite continues, so anyone lacking in willpower can simply cheat his way to the end. This aside, Legend of Hero Tonma is fun, entertaining, and a real laugh - and that's what a game should be. PC Engineers are advised to add this to their collection at once.





LEGEND OF HERO TONMA

G-LOVELY POWER-UPS

Tonma's magic gloves are a bit weedy to start off with, but by collecting the power-up crystal balls that lie around, his firepower can be increased to enormous proportions.

POWER-UP

Increases firepower progressively:

NORMAL: Fires single bolts of energy.

PLASMA: More powerful blasts, and more rapid. FIRE: Emits bouncing fireballs, which destroy anything in their path. Probably the most useful weapon.

FIREBALL: Watch those fireballs hug the ground and annihilate all of Tonma's foes! SPHERES: These babies arc upwards, hitting any nasty that may be lurking above.

BARRIER

Collect this icon, and a ring of spinning spheres appears, which protect our hero from damage. Don't get too excited though, as the balls vanish one by one as Tonma takes hits, so be careful!









Legend of Hero Tonma is quite an entertaining slice of platform excitement with excellent graphics that are pretty close to the arcade original. For a platform game, the concept of progressive weaponry is quite novel, and Tonma's magic finger arsenal builds up into

quite an impressive fighting machine (which unfortunately vanishes when Tonma bites the dust). The gameplay itself is really challenging, and completing even the first couple of levels is quite an achievement. Unfortunately, as Rob said, the inclusion of infinite continues means that the most determined gamesplayers will be able to complete the game in one sitting. Normally, this seals a game's doom, but Legend of Hero Tonma's exciting gameplay means that it still gets the thumbs up from me. PC Engine owners are advised to check this out as soon as possible.



For those of you who've never heard of Irem (shame on you!), you may be interested to know that they were the company behind what is regarded as the best arcade shoot 'em up of all time - R-Type. This slice of classic coin-op action started the ball rolling for blasters to come - progressive firepower, massive end-of-level guardians, and an addictive quality that grabbed you by the throat and wouldn't let go. Of course, a sequel emerged (imaginitively titled R-Type II), which will be soon appearing on computers, courtesy of Activision. Irem themselves have already launched R-Type on the Game Boy, and will be producing Super R-Type, which will appear on the Super Famicom later this year.







RICHARD LEADBETTER

PC ENGINE

SOUNDS PLAYABILITY LASTABILITY

07

OVERALL





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Aah! Twas a dark and stormy night - stormy and dark it was -18 years ago when the peaceful kingdom of Excalabria was in vaded by Cartahena's foul despot-from-Hell, Lord Tsarkon. The ar mies of King Erik were all that could save the land from him, but alas they were overwhelmed, and just before Erik himself was slain, he bade Blade, his bravest warrior, escape, taking the King's infant son with him so he could be raised in safety.

Eighteen years later Blade is dead, but on his death bed he informed his adopted son of his royal heritage and destiny. The Prince yows to avenge his lather's death and reclaim the kingdom that is his by right.

But it will not be easy. Tsarkon possesses the eight Rings of Evil, and the only things that can match their power are the eight Rings of Good. They are scattered throughout the kingdom, and to regain them the Prince must pass through many countries, facing Tsarkon's army of demons and archmonsters, and undertaking many other quests which will test his kingly virtues.

After recovering the eight Rings of Good, he must find the single person who can craft for him a mighty blade, the Sword of Vermillion. Thus armed he is ready to destroy his ultimate enemy. Tsarkon himself!

kon himself!

Open Take

A treasure of 15,000 kims

Talk Masio Seek Open Take

> You opened the chest. There's a map inside/



It's funny, I never used to like Role-Playing Games, but recently there have been a load of good ones appearing on various machines, and Sword of Vermillion is one of the ones I've been playing most (Prince Paul is on level 16, and still only halfway through the game,

would you believe). I think what I like about it most is the fact that the combat (which constitutes most of the action) is in an arcade format. It's not a particularly demanding arcade format, I admit, but it's such an improvement over the sort of combat system which appeared in Phantasy Star II where each character had to decide what type of attack they were to make in the next round of combat, take their turn to attack, and see the outcome only in terms of numbers. The game's plot is engaging and easy to follow - in fact it's made more interesting by the packaged hint book which coaxes the player through, getting rid of all possible annoyances without giving the game away entirely. The only thing I would draw attention to is the sound effects and the superb music, which is amongst the best I've heard in a Megadrive game. It's worth following the hint book's advice and buying a cable which hooks the Megadrive up to your stereo. Overall, then, an excellent RPG, which even those indifferent to adventures should enjoy.

> PAUL **GLANCEY**



GETTING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD

REVIEV

Woe betide any traveller who ventures outside his village without a map! The Prince will find most folk know the perils which lie beyond the gates of their townships, and at least one person will be generous enough to provide him with a map giving directions to the nearest village. Once on the road, this appears in the top right of the screen, next to a 3D view of the road ahead, which also shows the monsters which ambush any unwary traveller!





GOING TO TOWN

There are 14 towns in Excalabria, and to complete the quest the Prince has to pass through each of them. Within a town's walls he can seek information about his quest, restore his tired body in an inn, then enter the church to save his progress in one of the three battery-backed saved position slots.

Most towns also have three different types of shop which will buy and sell equipment. Weapons shops deal in swords, shields and armour. Equipment shops stock such items as medicines and magical treasures which can save the life of beleaguered adventurers. Finally, the town's magic shop is the place to go have orders not to let anyone escape!

LEVEL HEADED

By killing monsters and completing subquests, the Prince earns cash, and also experience points. The experience points add up until, when they reach a certain figure, the Prince moves up a "level". This increases his maximum health and magic points and improves his intelligence, dexterity and luck, making him a better warrior and giving extra effectiveness to any spells he casts.



What would you like to buy?

1080 OF VERMILLIO

ARCH MONSTERS OF CARTAHENA

At the end of many of the subquests, an enemy unexpectedly transforms himself into one of Tsarkon's huge archmonsters! When this happens, the screen again changes to give a side-on view of the action, with the Prince on the left and the archmonster on the right. The archmonsters are usually skilled in destructive magic, but the Prince can only use his sword to try to cut the archmonster into diabolical kebabs while dodging and blocking magic fireballs! Don't panic, though, because some of the monsters aren't as tough as they appear, and if the Prince has replenished his strength before going into battle he shouldn't have too much trouble seeing at least the early archmonsters off.



DUNGEONS, DRAGONS AND DARKNESS

Throughout the quest, the Prince has to enter multi-level caves which may contain some treasure or an archmonster which must be defeated to allow further progress. Travelling underground is dangerous simply because there is no light, so the Prince must remember to bring a supply of candles, a lantern, or a book of light spells. The first thing to do is hunt for a chest which contains a map of the cave, then search all dead ends for more chests which may contain money or the treasure he was searching for. Naturally, roaming the catacombs are lots of monsters which have orders not to let anyone escape!



Sword of Vermillion is a simple, yet highly compelling arcade adventure/RPG. I find that a lot of Megadrive games prove to be very short-lived, but Sword of Vermillion offers a vast, sprawling adventure that'll have you up burning the midnight oil for many a

month before the quest is finally complete. The hint book proves to be a worthy tool, providing an excellent guide to the land. The combat screens may not be that complex, but it's great fun whipping out your sword, chopping up all-and-sundry, and testing out your new magical powers as well. Graphically, Sword of Vermillion is a mixed bag, with the 3D screens looking decidedly rough, but this is more than made up for with the excellent town graphics and detailed sprites. It's the sound that lends a perfect atmosphere to the proceedings, with some of the best music ever heard on the Megadrive. With its intriguing plots and subplots, there's loads to keep you occupied and plenty of nasty surprises lying in wait for the hardy adventurer. Even if you're not that keen on RPGs, Sword of Vermillion is well worth the £40.00 price tag.

INTO BATTLE!

After leaving the safety of a town, it's not long before the Prince runs into trouble. When monsters appear on the road, he must stop and confront them. At this, the screen changes to display a bird's-eye view of the road. the monsters and the Prince. Drawing his sword, the Prince leaps into battle, running around the screen slashing at his foes and dodging their blows or magic attacks. If he has readied a book of combat magic before the battle, he can use it. These attacks cost magic points, but magic fireballs, electrical blasts, homing boomerangs and huge flumes of water can save the Prince a lot of his magic points, particularly when he starts to run into tougher monsters later in the quest. Of course, if things get really tough, he can always leg it off the screen, although of course he misses out on the experience points (and money) he could have earned by fighting.



RICHARD

GRAPHICS SOUNDS PLAYABILITY LASTABILITY

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ARCADE ACTION

The only thing that was remotely interesting about the original Street Fighter arcade machine was that the deluxe cabinet featured massive rubber punch buttons which you hit as hard as you could to inflict maximum damage on your opponents. Otherwise it was a fairly run-of-the-mill one-on-one beat 'em up with little in the way of thrills and spills.

This sequel is another story...

Boasting massive, beautifully drawn and animated sprites, tons of speech and the most exciting, action-packed head-to-head conflict yet seen in an arcade game, Street Fighter 2 is a beat 'em up classic.

In single-player mode the objective is simple: choose one of eight fighters and then travel the world kicking the living daylights of the remaining seven opponents. The idea of each one-on-one battle is to wear down your opponent's energy bar by either kicking or punching him/her into submission. Each fight is the best of three rounds - so two wins means promotion to the next round. Failure means game over (or shovelling more cash into the machine before the timer reaches zero)!



I didn't like the original Street Fighter game - it just didn't have enough original features to make it worth playing. This sequel, however, is absolutely packed with new ideas and special moves, and the end result is one of the best fighting games yet seen in the ar-

cades. With six buttons combining with 8 joystick directions to provide more moves than I've ever seen in a beat 'em up, this takes quite some time to master. But it's well worth practicing - especially when you discover a devastating new move to baffle opponents with! The computer fighters are very tough and provide plenty of challenge, but it's with two people where Street Fighter 2 excels especially when the players are evenly matched. Street Fighter 2 is a brilliant coin-op - just make sure that when you start playing it, you've got a pocketful of cash.

JULIANRIGNALL



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With two players, each person chooses a fighter and the battle begins. The tournament is played over the best of three rounds, and the winner goes on to fight the computer opponents (unless the loser puts more cash into the machine, whereupon the fight continues).

Once the first seven opponents are defeated, the player moves onto characters that are otherwise inaccessible at the start of the game. There are four of these mega-tough guys including Balrog, a massive boxer, Vega, a very fast Spanish matador and Bison, a huge Russian wrestler. Beat him and you become Street Fighter champion - but that takes some doing!





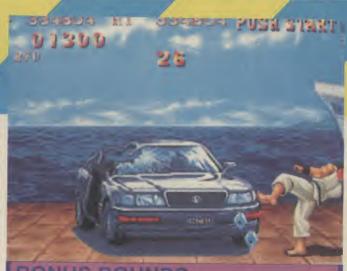


A martial arts expert from the original Street Fighter game. This time he's learned several new moves, including Hurricane Punch, Dragon Kick and Fireball. He's agile and strong and is a brilliant all-round fighter.



This competent combatant moved to America so he could train with tougher opponents, and he can now match Ryu blow for blow, even Hurrican Punches and Dragon Kicks.





BONUS ROUNDS

There are three different bonus stages breaking up the fighting action. First of all is a car-smashing feast similar to the one in Final Fight where the object is to reduce a car to scrap metal within the quickest possible time. Next is a barrel-breaking extravaganza where you have to break falling barrels before they bowl you over. Finally there's a blazing oil drums session where punching and kicking skills are required to destroy a tottering pile of incendiary storage devices within the time limit.











BLANKA

A wolf-man from Brazil who looks and fights like an animal. He can body dive, electrify his opponent, chew their faces and punch with incredible strength. He's very fast and is great with two-players, but not quite so good with computer opponents.



GUILE

This mean GI is as tough as they come. His Somersault Kick and Sonic Boom are deadly offensive moves, and his mid-range and close-quarter combat abilities make him a fearsome adversary.



CHUN LI

The prettiest fighter - and the one with the biggest hips! Chun Li is very fast and has some great punching and kicking moves - including the deadly Spinning Bird Kick. She's not very strong, but she's by far the most agile fighter.



DHALSIM

A true rubber man! Dhalsim's stretchy limbs means he can inflict massive long-range damage on opponents, but his close-range combat isn't so hot. His specialist moves include Yoga Fire, Fire Blast and a spinning, floating kick. Recommended.

ARCADE ACTION







ZANGIEF

This big, fat Russian wrestler is very, very strong. His deadly spinning punch knocks masses of strength out of an enemy, and his pile driver can finish them off in seconds. The penalty for all this strength is that he's very slow.



HONDA

Another slow, but strong character. Sumo wrestler Honda has many tricks up his sleeve, including nerve pinch, hundred-hand punch, headbutt, bear hug and knee slap. His weakness, however, is in his lack of kicking range.

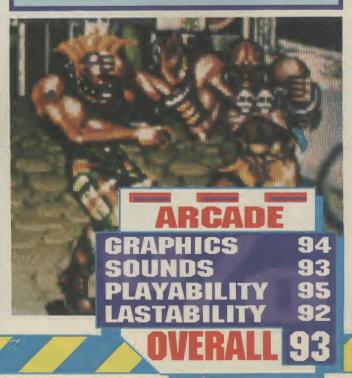






HOW MANY BUTTONS?

The amount of controls looks bewildering at first, with three punch and three kick buttons as well as a joystick used to control your fighter. However, it's not all that tricky to get to grips with. Each button represents a strength - either weak, medium or strong. Strong punches knock great chunks of energy off your opponent, but the penalty for using a strong punch is that if your opponent hits you while you're making the move, you lose more strength. Each fighter also has a series of special moves, accessed via a variety of joystick directions and button presses - these are tricky to learn, but the end results are well worth it!





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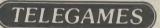
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VERSION MEGADRIVE **DATE**EPTEMBER

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Sonic the Hedgehog must rank as one of the most eagerly awaited Megadrive cartridges ever! Sega are touting this game as more than a match for Nintendo's Super Mario World on the Super Famicom. Boasting super-sonic platform game-play and stunning graphics, it's guaranteed to sell bundles by the time it's officially released in the UK (around Septembertime, but probably available a couple of months earlier on import from the USA).

There are fifteen sprawling platform levels, each split into five acts. The object in each is simply to guide our turbocharged hedgehog through each scene, in search of a special flag. But there are plenty of obstacles including spikes that shoot out of from the walls and the floor, collapsing platforms, and lakes of water and fire.

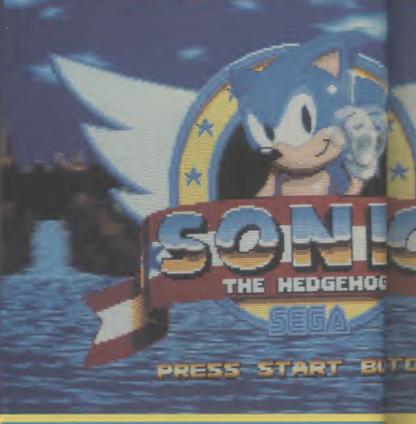
But there's plenty more besides, including some of the meanest (and cutest) little villains yet seen in a home video game!



TOPSY-TURVY BONUS BONANZA

This bonus screen involves Sonic careering around a rotating maze, desperately trying to find a way out. On the way, there are different tiles to bump, and each may spang Sonic in a different direction. Keep an eye on the gorgeous parallax backdrops. The scrolling fish transform into birds and back again. Very attractive.

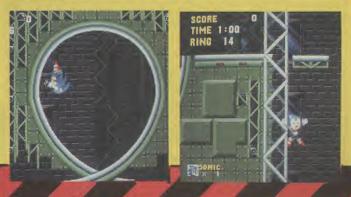




SONIC BOOM BOY

There are loads of icons dotted around the scrolling landscapes, and these have different effects on our prickly hero. One type gives him a temporary shield which protects him from some of the evil sprites. Another type gives Sonic a brand new pair of running shoes which make him run at incredible speeds (hyper sonic?). If you're really lucky you'll find a very special icon that gives Sonic both powers at once. Yikes!









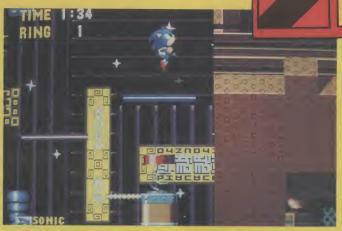






SONIC SPECTRUMS?

Just before this issue of CVG went to press, US Gold announced that they had the home computer rights to Sonic the Hedgehog! This means that the cuddly little hedgehog will be appearing on the Spectrum, C64, Amstrad, ST and Amiga! No programming team has been signed up yet to carry out the conversion, but as soon we get any more details (like when it's coming out, for example), expect an update here in CVG!







SONIC ROLLER-COASTERS

The thing that really sets Sonic the Hedgehog apart from any other platform game available are the terrific roller-coaster loops and tunnels that are present in some of the levels. Sonic builds up speed by running down hills and provided he's fast enough, he can travel around the massive loop-the-loops. Some of the tunnel levels see Sonic rolling himself up in a ball and then speeding down the tunnels double-quick! So, not only is Sonic brilliantly fast, it's original too!





VERSION NINTENDO **DATE**AUGUST

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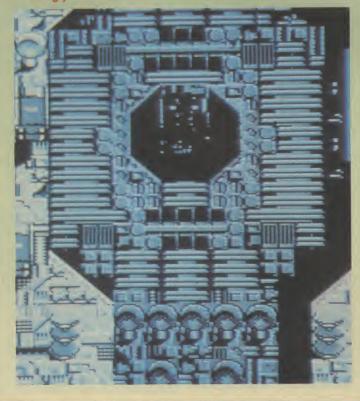


LUCASFILM/JVC

Quite some time ago, in a galaxy not too far away, a man by the name of George Lucas dazzled the world with a film that was to set standards of believability for years to come. That film was Star Wars (or, to give it its proper title, Star Wars - Episode IV: A New Hope). Now Lucas's software arm is giving a new breath of life into the Star Wars saga with the release of this, a version of the movie for the NES.

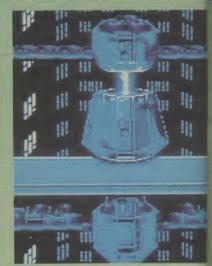
The player has three primary characters to control: Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Princess Leia Organa, but will also have to manipulate Obi-Wan Kenobi, C-3PO and R2-D2 as well, over six action sequences, including driving a land-speeder through the canyons of Tatooine, piloting the Millennium Falcon through an asteroid field, and hurtling down the Death Star trench in an X-wing fighter!

As you can see from the screenshots, it certainly looks interesting - we've had a sneaky peep, and we can tell you it certainly is impressive! Star Wars will be released on the NES in Britain at the same time as it hits the shelves in the USA, which will be in August. As we get our hands on this one, CVG will bring you the full review.



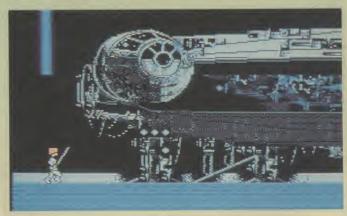












MYTH SYSTEM 3

After over two years of waiting, System 3 have now announced that their excellent C64/Spectrum title is now ready for release on the Amiga and ST. Instead of the young trendy in jeans and trainers featured in the original, you now control a strapping bloodthirsty warrior on a quest to utterly destroy all that is evil in the world. The C64 version was an absolute cracker, not to mention bloody enormous - four levels may



VERSION AMIGA ST

DATE MAY/JUNE MAY/JUNE PRICE £ 25.99 £ 25.99

not sound like much, but when they're packed with all manner of sub-levels, demonic creatures, tricks, traps, and puzzles, it's enough to make any gamer quake at the knees, and so it is with these new versions.

The original raked in a whole hatful of accolades, including a CVG HIT!, so it'll certainly be interesting to see how these conversions match up - but you'll have to wait and see...



VERSION
C64 CASS
C64GS CART
AMIGA
ST
PC

DATE

JUNE

JUNE

SEPTEMBER

TURBOCHARGE SYSTEM 3

TurboCharge is the one for you. System 3's new racer pits you at the controls of a "unique Italian sports car" (which bears a remarkable resemblance to a Lambourghini, don't you think?). Your task is to rip up the road, guns-a-blazing, in order to catch the dealers before they reach the border. According to the blurb, TurboCharge features a unique driving control which effectively puts the player in control of the road! Apparently, this "adds so much more to this product", and we look forward to testing this claim when we review the game, hopefully in the next issue of this very magazine!







VERSION	DATE	PRICE
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THUNDERJAWS DOMARK

Another in Domark's long line of Tengen coin-op conversions, Thunderjaws pits one or two players up against the forces of the insidious Madam Q. Female swimmers have been mysteriously going missing, and the not-so-good madam has been using them in genetic experiments, in order to create an army of lizard women! Ooooh!

Anyway, what all this tosh means is a big excuse for an 8-way scrolling blast 'em up, featuring all sorts of powerful weapons (Uzi 9mms and flame throwers a speciality), and myriad nasties, including - get this - cybernetic sharks and robodogs!

Anyway, the story may be a right load of old codswallop (if you'll pardon the pun), but hopefully Domark can improve on Skull and Crossbones and STUN Runner. Check out the upcoming CVG review for the full SP.



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HYDRA DOMARK

representation of a dampered of the pour situation, you call the one man who's up to the job: Hydra! Yep, he's the star of another Tengen conversion courtesy of the Domark boys - this one's a sort of RoadBlasters on water. Set over thirty-one levels, you've got to guide turbopowered skimmer over deadly waterways, transporting secret supplies to a distant destination. This may sound all particularly pleasant, if it weren't for the numerous amounts of adversaries trying to put a dampener on your plans! Add to that the fact that your gas is running out all the time certainly make the situation all the more unpleasant...

ICE (the team behind the 16 bit conversions of Turbo Out-Run and SCI) are the guys on the job, and from what we've seen of the Amiga version, the whole thing is coming together nicely. The one snag lies in the coin-op: the original wasn't exactly the hottest thing in excitement, which doesn't bode well for the home versions. How the whole thing fares at the end of the day remains to be seen.





VERSION AMIGA ST

DATE APRIL APRIL

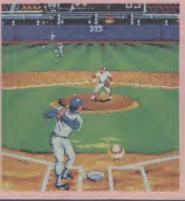
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RBI BASEBALL 2 DOMARK

Now this is an odd 'un - a Tengen title not converted from a coin-op! Confused? Well, the thing is this; Tengen also do a natty range of carts for the NES (which has caused quite a stir with Nintendo, as they reckon Tengen are doing this illegally), one of which is a nifty baseball game entitled RBI 2 Baseball. Now Domark have gained the rights to release this title on computers.

Everything you'd expect from a baseball title is there, including fielding, pitching and batting tactics - if you want, you can simply play a hit and run game, or use the player's abilities to their fullest, and play a tougher tactical game. RBI 2 has 26 teams to choose from, each containing 24 real players, with stats recorded from the 1989 series, so there's a heck of a lot of scope there.

Baseball games have been here before however, and they weren't exactly stunning then, so this'll have to be something extra special to knock our socks off. Read the full CVG low-down next month to find out whether Domark really can play hardball.





BIRDS OF PREY

After four years of development, Argonaut's mega flight sim, Hawk, is now ready to be unleashed upon a not-so-unsuspecting world. Now titled Birds of Prey, this massive game features 40 different aircraft to fly, including Soviet-built MiG-29s, European Saab and Tornado fighters, and the very latest in US warplane technology, including the Rockwell B1 and the F-117/A Stealth Fighter! Ooh!

Argonaut have also kitted out Birds of Prey with the latest in 3D graphics technology. Each object is individually light-source shaded (as the hanger doors open, the interior becomes progressively lighter!) and highly detailed. Argonaut have also included ellipses in their graphical routines, so wheels are actually circular in shape rather than being made out of squares or hexagons.

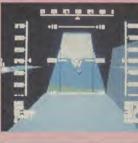
Rather than restraining each aircraft to strict performance limits, Argonaut have implemented a more realistic system where each aircraft's performance is altered by the plane's weight, ordnance and payload, the plane's aerodynamics, and so on. Thus, a fighter that has used all its available weapons and a great deal of fuel will be able to return to base at a higher altitude, and a much greater velocity!

Twelve mission types are available, including aerial interception, bombing runs and troop drops, as well as aerial reconusing laser-guided cameras, and test flying experimental aircraft, such as the X-15. All the missions are open-ended, which gives the player unlimited variations. Both sides are constantly active, and set in a real-time environment, with real constellations emerging when the sun sets! Phewee!





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CHUCK YEAGER'S AIR COMBAT ELECTRONIC ARTS

After the rather disappointing ST version of Chuck Yeager's AFT v2.0, Electronic Arts are now ready to bounce back with another PC flight sim endorsed by the man himself. Programmed by Brent Iverson (who did the job on the brilliant LHX Attack Chopper and the not-quite-so-brilliant Stormovik), this features a brand new graphics engine, utilising 256 colour VGA graphics and allowing 20 (count 'em) external viewpoints!

Over 50 missions are available, in three of the deadliest combat theatres in modern history namely, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Both Allied and opposing aircraft can be flown, including the P-51 Mustang, the F86 Sabre, the MiG-15, the F-4 Phantom and the MiG-25. In addition to that, there's a nifty custom mission facility, allowing the player to select type of plane, altitude, tactical situation, skill of enemy pilots plus the number of enemy aircraft from 17 possible types!

Add to that General Yeager himself giving comments on the player's flight techniques (through the use of graphic windows and digitised speech), and you've got yourself a flight sim worth checking out. Look for the review in a future issue of CVG.

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his cutesy coin-op, released by Jaleco during 1989, is now undergoing the conversion process, courtesy of those Sales Curve wallahs.

According to the blurb, one or two players control Tam and Rit, two sickeningly sweet fairies with magic rods (hence the title) and magic shoes. Their task is to rescue their "mom" from the evil Maboots - no easy task, as his lair is filled with such insidious creatures as fluffy bunnies, cute sharks, and deadly

Along the way, such items as magic flowers, bombs, bullets, and ice crystals can be collected, which in turn will aid the two on their quest. Sounds like a lorra, lorra laffs if you ask us, and as you can see, the graphics are as nauseatingly cute as the coin-op's.

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VERSION AMIGA ST C64 AMSTRAD **SPECTRUM**

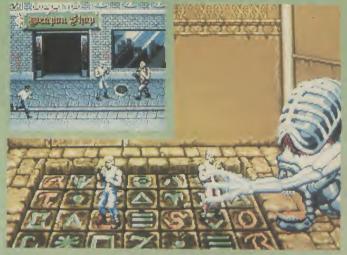
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DOUBLE DRAGON III THE ROSETTA STONES

he third part of the ongoing Double Dragon saga is currently being converted to computers, this time through the Sales Curve, on their Storm label. Again featuring the dauntless Billy and Jimmy Lee, this sprawling beat 'em up takes the deadly twosome across five massive missions (America, China, Japan, Italy and finally Egypt) in order to defeat the evil Black Warriors, and retrieve the sacred Rosetta Stones.

As these early shots show, the graphics are certainly a major improvement over the first two Double Dragon games - it

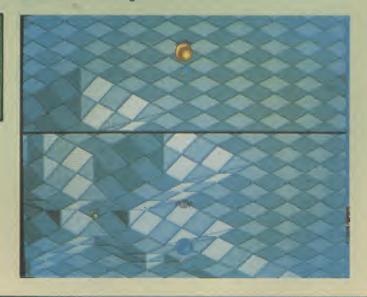


only remains to be seen whether the gameplay holds up to the same standards. Given the Sales Curve programming team's talents, this could well be one of the best bashers seen on the small screen in a long while!

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SLIDERS PALACE

nother in the ever-growing genre of "futuristic technosports", Sliders is all about chasing an electro-puck over a choice of a dozen different playzones, in order to get the puck into your opponent's goal. Now, there'd usually be nothing quite so complex about this, but as you can see from the shot, this involves negotiating hazardous terrain, fighting gravity, and avoiding your opponent's weapons! If it plays as good as it sounds, it could be a real hoot - watch out for it!







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